

Counselling notes protect decisions database

The Legal Aid Queensland Counselling Notes Protect decisions database contains an archive of decisions from Queensland courts regarding the use of counselling notes in legal proceedings.

Database contents

Decisions

- ▶ The database contains decisions from Queensland courts, as well as selected interstate decisions that offer guidance for rulings on section 590APA Protected counselling communications applications under the *Criminal Code Act 1899* (Qld).

Key benefits

- ▶ Users can access decisions from multiple courts to support advice and representation to victims, practitioners, counsellors and support services who have received a subpoena to disclose confidential counselling notes and use refined search capabilities to explore the database.

What to use the database for?

Legal concepts

- ▶ Search for legal concepts such as public interest vs confidentiality, privacy protections, fairness, and compliance with court orders to release counselling records.

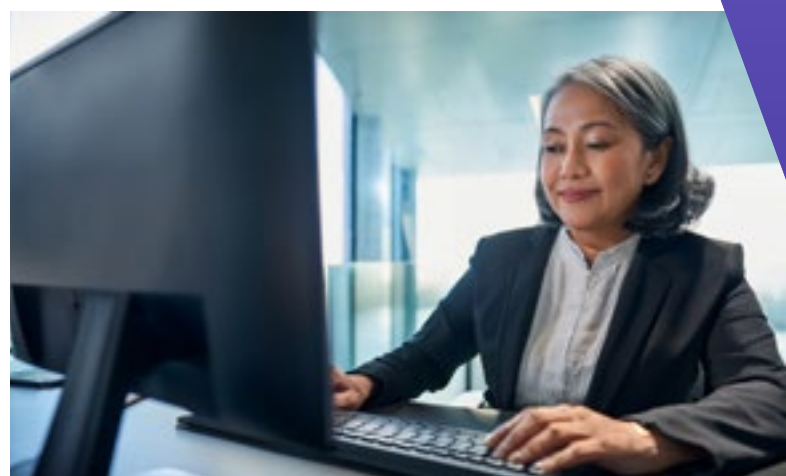
Procedural or evidence issues

- ▶ Search for cases that consider the admissibility of confidential counselling records, and whether a victim's counselling communications have enough relevance and weight to be used in legal proceedings.

How to use the database

Start broad and refine as required

- ▶ Begin with a few basic criteria such as catchwords and court. If you get too many results, add one or more additional search criteria. If you get too few results, take out one or more search criteria.



Useful functionalities

- ▶ View the full PDFs of decisions for a more in-depth understanding of the case or view the decision in AustLII's LawCite for more information such as related cases.

Helpful tips

- ▶ Case is ignored in the database, so you can use either upper or lowercase. Punctuation is ignored as well, except for the search operators: (&, !, /, =, :). Be mindful of all the search fields, as sometimes a dropdown can be active without you realising, which will result in an error, or no results returned.

A video tutorial with tips for searching this database is available on Grants Online. The video can be found under the information resources tab, or on the database search page. Contact the library at library@legalaid.qld.gov.au for more information.